

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending in the application. In light of the Advisory Action, all claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on U.S. Patent No. 5,909,678 to Bergman et al. The rejections are traversed. The Applicants note with appreciation that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 has been withdrawn. An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with this Reply to cite a reference reported during prosecution of a related foreign application.

The distinctions between the claimed invention and Bergman were discussed in the Request for Reconsideration filed on September 6, 2005, and those arguments are incorporated herein. The Office continues to conclude that Bergman teaches the claimed hyperlinking and refers to three sections of Bergman. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, the Advisory Action states that Bergman at column 3, lines 15-16, discusses that phrase receptacles are indicated to a user by double brackets “[]”. In fact, the referenced double brackets are only used in the “textual description” of the specification. “On the display screen they are represented as having rectangular or square boundaries.” (Bergman, col. 3, lines 17-18.) Such boundaries are typical of text boxes and in no way suggest hyperlink control.

Second, the Advisory Action states that Bergman at columns 6 and 7, lines 62-64 and 4-9, discusses that phrase receptacles are indicated to a user by color or shape. While that is true, it in no way suggests hyperlink control. The use of color and shading to highlight text boxes is well known, but is not related to hyperlinks.

Finally, Bergman's example at column 7, lines 31-49, further discusses Java-based input control. According to Bergman, an input box can be programmatically limited to certain selections. Because all selections are displayed to the user, including unallowed selections, Bergman can highlight the allowed selections. No hyperlinking is involved.

Furthermore, pseudo code for enabling various functions is provided in FIGs. 10A-10C of Bergman. That pseudo code affects the graphical interface but does not link to other locations. Again, a Java program that detects a mouse click and displays a list of selections is not employing hyperlinks. Instead, the mouse click appears to cause the Java program to display a pop-up menu. That menu would be part of the Java program itself and would not be a link to another location.

In conclusion, Bergman does not disclose or suggest hyperlink editing of queries as required by the Applicants' claims. The Office has only offered conclusory statements in support of the rejection. Consequently, the Office has not established a prima facie basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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